

# BUSINESS

THE SUN

Business Editor

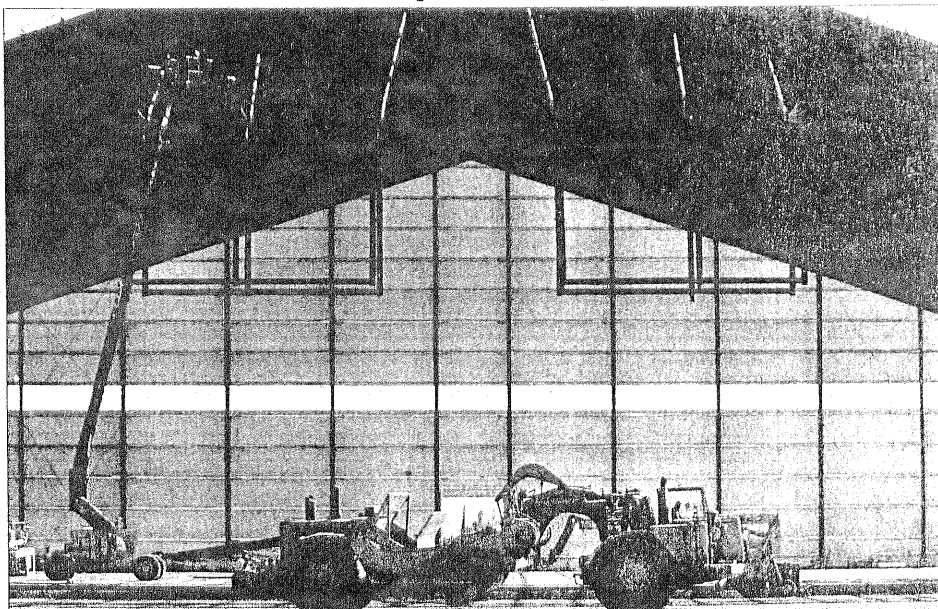
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## Desert airport landing jobs



Eric Reed/Staff photographer

Pratt & Whitney is among four companies having new hangars built for them at SCLA. This new facility will house operations for Southern California Aviation and Pacific Aviation Group, which are 50 percent owned by Pratt & Whitney. Expansions by businesses at SCLA have created openings for 550 jobs which must be filled by April.

## 550 openings at SCLA

By Jim Steinberg  
Business Editor

VICTORVILLE — Wanted: 550 trained aviation specialists by April.

Longer-term needs: between 2,000 and 4,000 more.

Southern California Logistics Airport is about to take off.

Four hangars totaling approximately 350,000 square feet are under construction. The companies that will occupy that space and others at SCLA are rapidly expanding. And they need more people.

The greatest need is for 366 licensed airframe and power (A&P) mechanics who typically earn between \$20 and \$30 per hour, said Jim Worsham, business development and aviation marketing director for SCLA.

Some of those A&P mechanics will be needed with specialties in electronics and aircraft electrical systems, avionics, structures and aircraft interiors.

Companies at the airport will also need design engineers, electrical engineers, instrument and avionics technicians.

There is also heavy demand for people to work on aircraft painting.

Among those positions to fill by April include 75 paint prepers, 25 painters and 10 paint supervisors.

And there are job openings for support staff, including purchasing agents, shipping and receiving clerks.

To fill the immediate need of 550 openings, the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department will be conducting a number of job fairs across the region.

Dates will be announced later this month, said Barbara Halsey, workforce development director.

Worsham said job fairs will be held in Long Beach, Palmdale and Adelanto. They will also be held at community colleges with already established A&P training programs, such as San Bernardino Valley College and Chaffee College in Rancho Cucamonga.

### INFORMATION

For more information about the 366 airframe and power mechanics jobs, or other aviation-related openings at Southern California Logistics Airport, contact Jim Worsham at (760) 243-1905.

Worsham said he anticipates a billboard on Interstate 15 near Cajon Pass to tell commuters there may be a job for them at SCLA.

"We want to let them know there are jobs up here and they don't need to commute," he said.

Looking longer-term, there is a need for a "constant, uninterrupted stream of qualified aviation workers for the next several years," Worsham said.

To help meet that need, Halsey said she helped link San Bernardino Valley College and Chaffee College officials with those at Victor Valley College and Barstow College.

"We have to start skilling these people now," Halsey said.

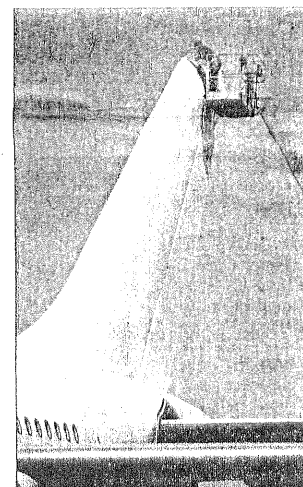
Now, Victor Valley College officials are planning to launch a satellite branch at SCLA.

What is known informally as The Victor Valley College School of Aviation and Logistics will open in February, said Pat Spencer, superintendent/president of the college.

Victor Valley College will draw from the experience and curriculum of San Bernardino Valley College and Chaffee College, she said.

Worsham said the school will likely be contained in a building that housed classroom training programs when what is now SCLA was George Air Force Base. The same building also housed a branch of Chapman College when the Air Force occupied the airport area.

To launch the school quickly, William Graven, chairman and chief executive officer of California Building Systems, has donated \$110,000 to help



Eric Reed/Staff photographer

Liberty West Aerospace at Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville performs maintenance, modifications and interior refurbishment on jumbo jetliners. The company is having a new hangar built for it and is among those at SCLA planning a rapid workforce expansion.

establish the school at SCLA.

CBS is both the developer and builder of the four hangars at SCLA.

"I'm tagging along as interested bystander. I want my companies to do well, and to do well they need lots of the right kind of people," Graven said.

Another aviation company at SCLA, Heavy Lift Helicopters, has donated \$10,000 for the school, Worsham said.

Students at the Victor Valley College satellite campus would be able to take classes and work at one of the seven SCLA aviation-related businesses, Worsham and Spencer said.

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